

LGBTQ¹ Substance Use in Missouri



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3.5% of U.S. adults self-identify as Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT)². Similarly, 3.3% of Missouri adults identify as LGBT².

Currently, sexual orientation and gender identity questions are not asked on most national or state surveys. Despite these gaps in data collection, research suggests that LGBT populations have some of the highest rates of tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use³.

A 2009 report⁴ suggests that adults in Missouri communities who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) are 1.5 times more likely to smoke than Missourians in general.

- 36.1% of LGBTQ individuals surveyed reported being a current smoker. This was significantly higher than the general smoking rate for Missouri at the time, 24.5%.
- In 2013, it was reported that 22.1% of Missouri adults are current smokers⁵.
- A greater percentage of LGBTQ individuals who are current smokers report drinking 22+ alcoholic drinks per week (67%) and going to bars more than once per week (53.8%) than former and never smokers⁴.

Data from the Missouri Gay-Straight Alliance Network's Missouri School Climate Survey⁶ suggest that in 2013 high school and college students who identify as LGBTQ were more likely to report using tobacco, smoking cigarettes or hookah in the past month than students who identify as straight. In the more recent 2014 survey, LGBTQ individuals were only slightly more likely to report use of these products in the past month than students who identify as straight.

Reported using tobacco, smoking cigarettes, or hookah in the past 30 days	2013	2014*
%LGBTQ	32.35	32.17

*Special run of the data

Additional Missouri specific data may become available for other types of substance use as more surveys add questions about sexual orientation and gender identity.

¹ Different acronyms are used throughout to match the original data sources and reflect the question wording for that particular survey.

² Gallup Daily tracking, June-December, 2012

³ <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-health>

⁴ The Check-Out Project An Examination of Smoking and Tobacco Attitudes in the LGBTQ Community in Missouri. Missouri Foundation for Health, 2009.

⁵ Pashi A, Wilson JS, Yun S. 2013 Missouri Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Annual Data Report. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Office of Epidemiology. March 2015.

⁶ <http://www.mogsanet.dreamhosters.com/what-we-do/missouri-school-climate-survey>